My Fellow Alumni,

Wishes for a happy and healthy New Year on behalf of the Alumni Association of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences! As we begin the New Year, the Governing Board is active planning and sponsoring events and programs for alumni and students.

This year, the Governing Board is collaborating with the Harrington Committee to present an invigorated format for Spring Clinical Day that will feature a single prominent keynote speaker—Dr. Michael Roizen, author of Real Age. I encourage you to find out your “real age” by visiting www.realage.com. (You can also read more about Dr. Roizen on page 41.) Spring Clinical Day will be held on Saturday, May 5, at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. The cost of the program and luncheon will be $40 per person. Please look for your registration brochure in the mail if you live in the Western New York area or if you are celebrating a reunion.

This year’s reunion theme is “You Have an Appointment for Reunion Weekend 2007” and will be May 4–5, 2007. Events will be held at UB’s South Campus and at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. We plan to offer tours of the medical school and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. Please look for complete details on this weekend in the upcoming weeks. (See the Save-the-Date announcement on page 45 for further details on these events).

Your contact for Reunion Weekend and Spring Clinical Day is Jennifer Loughab, director of special events and constituent relations. She is working closely with the reunion chairs and will answer your questions about the spring events. If you are celebrating a class reunion in 2007, please contact her at 716-829-2773 or 877-826-3246.

As a result of alumni membership support, the Medical Alumni Association (MAA) was able to offer or participate in several student programs during the fall semester: the White Coat Ceremony, Student Clinician Ceremony, Polity Golf Tournament, Community Physician Lunchroom, Mentoring Directory, and Parents Weekend. During a recent Polity meeting that I attended, the multiple talents, passion and commitment of the students directed toward both academic and community issues were truly impressive.

I request your assistance in continuing to support the MAA by becoming a member this year. The yearly dues of $75 allow us to continue alumni and student programs. Please visit www.alumni.buffalo.edu, click on the “membership” tab and follow the instructions for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

We welcome your feedback, so please feel free to e-mail me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Martin C. Mahoney, MD ‘95 PhD ‘98
President, Medical Alumni Association
martin.mahoney@roswellpark.org

Maxine Hayes, MD ‘73, MPH, has been elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

HAYES IS THE HEALTH OFFICE for the Washington State Department of Health. In this capacity, she advises the governor and the Department of Health Secretary on issues ranging from emergency response to infectious disease outbreaks to prevention of childhood illness. She also works closely with the medical community, local health departments, and community groups to provide the public the latest scientific information on how to become and stay healthy.

Hayes also serves as a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and on the faculty of the School of Public Health. She is a past president of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and is a past chair of the Maternal and Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association.

In 1999, Hayes was named a US Distinguished Alumna, and in 2000 she received the Medical Alumni Association’s Stockton Kimball Award. Established in 1970 as a unit of the National Academy of Sciences (but with separate membership), the IOM is broadly based in the biomedical sciences and health professions, as well as related aspects of the behavioral and social sciences, administration, law, the physical sciences, and engineering. It is concerned with the protection and advancement of the health professions and sciences, the promotion of research and development pertinent to health, and the improvement of health care.

In the pursuit of its mission, the IOM conducts studies of specific problems. Through election or appointment to advisory, steering or governing committees, members contribute their knowledge and professional judgment to the development of findings and the formulation of recommendations, most of which relate to public policy.
Sciences at Roswell Park Cancer Institute has been appointed to the editorial board of GA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society (ACS). The journal, which has a circulation of approximately 90,000, presents information to professionals about cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, palliation, advocacy issues, and quality-of-life topics in oncology.

Mahoney currently serves as vice chair of the ACS Psychosocial, Behavioral and Policy Research Committee and is a member of the ACS Primary Care Advisory Committee. He is a former member of the ACS Eastern Division Board of Directors, representing the states of New York and New Jersey. He continues to serve as a member of the ACS Board of Advisors for the Western New York region.

Mahoney’s research focuses on enhancing smoking cessation using pharmacotherapy, examining cancer screening utilization and promotion, and developing education and training programs for physicians and nonphysician providers.

Christine Ambrosone, PhD ’95, and Chi-Chen Hong, PhD, in the Department of Epidemiology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, have received grants totaling $1,017,766 to study weight gain and breast cancer recurrence. In one of the first known comprehensive studies to examine the issue, the scientists will investigate the combined impact of cancer treatment, genetic makeup, physiological changes, lifestyle habits, diet, physical activity, emotional well-being and social support as factors that can affect the health of women with breast cancer and be predictive of risk for recurrence.

Weight gain—the initial research focus—occurs in 30 to 95 percent of early-stage breast cancer patients who receive chemotherapy after surgery and/or radiation therapy, and has been associated with a poorer prognosis.

“There is little information available about what women can do to improve their health after they are diagnosed with breast cancer. This is believed to be the first study to investigate the role of hormonal changes and genetic variants in weight gain in these patients. The long-term goal of this research will be to identify factors that improve health during and after treatment for breast cancer,” says Ambrosone.

The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense ($622,766), the New York State Breast Cancer Research & Education Fund ($120,000), the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation® ($250,000) and individual gifts made to the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation ($25,000) for a total of $1,017,766. To read more about the study and its methodology, visit the Multimedia Newsroom at www.roswellpark.org and search press releases.

Michael C. Stamey, MD ’95, has joined the faculty at East Carolina University (ECU) Brody School of Medicine as assistant professor of vascular surgery. Previously, he was a resident physician at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia and then a Vascular fellow at Harvard University’s Massachusetts General Hospital. At ECU, he also serves as the director of the vascular surgery fellowship and codirector of the Aortic Center. He resides in Greenville, NC, with his wife, Mary Claire DeAgno, BS ’94, and two daughters Alyson and Natalie.

Mary E. Kolbert, MD ’88, joined the physician team at Lifetime Health Medical Group in November and began seeing patients of all ages in the family medicine practice at the William E. Modrak Health Center. In early 2007, she also began seeing patients at the group’s Hamburg Health Center.

Kolbert completed her medical degree and residency at the UB, where she also earned a master of arts in physiology. She is board-certified in family medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She currently resides in Hamburg.
Buffalo Physician received a Gold Award in the magazine category for the 2006 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades competition. The selection, announced in December, was based on overall excellence in editorial content and design. Congratulations to the Buffalo Physician team: art director Alan J. Kegler; designers Bob Wilder and Nick Peterson; contributing writers Lois Baker, Ellen Goldbaum and Nicole Peradotto; proofreader Ann Sarjeant; and editor, Stephanie A. Unger. The award will be presented in February 2007 at the CASE District II Conference in New York City.

—Kathleen Wiater, associate dean and senior director for Advancement and Constituent Relations, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

What’s Up Doc?

Your classmates would like to hear from you!

To update them, just complete the online submission form at www.smbs.buffalo.edu/bp/classnote

Things your fellow alumni tell us they would like to read about:

- Family updates
- Interesting ‘tips and tools’
- Happy occasions, humorous interludes
- Moves/promotions
- Retirement
- Honors and awards
- Publications
- Public service/election to office
- Research endeavors
- Musings on life as a doc...

—Kathleen Wiater, associate dean and senior director for Advancement and Constituent Relations, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

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In Memoriam

Irwin A. Ginsberg, MD '44, died on November 5, 2006. Widely recognized as one of Buffalo's finest ear surgeons, Ginsberg was also a respected basic scientist and inventor. In 2000, a device he designed for ear wax removal, called The Earigator, was launched as a successful commercial product.

A native of Buffalo, Ginsberg graduated from the UB Medical School in 1944 at age 22, having completed an accelerated program due to physician shortages during World War II. He interned at Buffalo General Hospital, after which he served in the navy for several years. Upon discharge from the service, he moved to New York City to pursue studies in surgical pathology and research at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He completed his residency in surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital in 1948 and the following year returned to Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center to begin a residency in otolaryngology, training under Edmund Fawler, MD, whom he considered to be his foremost mentor. He then spent 18 months abroad and completed a fellowship at Guys Hospital in London, where he trained with Robert J. Cann and Sir Victor Negus, as well as with other surgeons of repute in Switzerland, Sweden, Scotland, and Denmark.

Once his training was completed, Ginsberg returned to Buffalo to practice, eventually building his own office complex at 857 Delaware, which today remains one of two locations for the Buffalo Otology Group, which he founded.

Over the years, Ginsberg gave generously of his time to the UB Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, and in the early 1990s he helped to develop the first comprehensive cochlear implant program in Buffalo. In the late 1980s, he founded an Ear Research Laboratory that in many respects served as a precursor to present-day laboratories at the university that focus on basic-science inquiries into hearing and deafness.

A hugely outgoing man with a flair for energetic joke telling, Ginsberg was also known for his warm bedside manner. In a 2000 interview with Buffalo Physician, he said that children who are deaf and hard of hearing are in special need of support and encouragement. "You have to support them all, support them like mad!" he said.

Over the years, Ginsberg amassed a world-class collection of antique cars, which he loved working on and driving in his spare time. He reluctantly sold the collection in the mid-1990s. Ginsberg, whose wife, Sylvia R. Ginsberg, died in 1998, is survived by his companion, Lisa Bettendorf Crean, and his children: Ellen (Louis F.) Yost, Susan (Edward V.) Regan of New York City, and Dr. Harold (Julian) Goldstein, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Shane G. Ferguson, MD '95, died on September 15, 2006, of cancer. He passed away at home surrounded by his family. He was 37.

Born in Niagara Falls, NY, and a graduate of LaSalle Senior High School, Ferguson went on to earn his bachelor's degree with summa cum laude honors in biological sciences at UB. He then attended medical school at UB, where he again graduated with honors. As a medical student, Ferguson was involved in early studies with surfactant technology and earned research honors for a study he conducted in 1991.

Following graduation from medical school, Ferguson completed his residency in pediatrics at Women and Children's Hospital, where he spent 18 months abroad and completed a fellowship at Guys Hospital in London, where he trained with Robert J. Cann and Sir Victor Negus, as well as with other surgeons of repute in Switzerland, Sweden, Scotland, and Denmark.

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Ferguson began practicing in the Buffalo area in 1998. He also served as medical director for Sister's Hospital School Health Program and as school physician for the Hamburg Central School District. In addition, he spent time assisting children at the Child Advocacy Center of Buffalo. In December 2004, due to his illness, Ferguson discontinued his private practice at Town and Village Pediatrics of Amherst.

Fusensh shared his family’s love for medicine, and his children: Ellen (Louis F.) Yost, Susan (Edward V.) Regan of New York City, and Dr. Harold (Julian) Goldstein, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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Following graduation from medical school, Ferguson completed his residency in pediatrics at Women and Children's Hospital, where he was the recipient of the Frederick B. Wilkes Award of Excellence in Pediatrics. More recently, he received the Compeer Volunteer of the Year Award for assisting troubled and disadvantaged youth.

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Daniel C. DeSimone, Class of 2010
Charles O. Bauer, MD, and Mary A. Bauer Scholar

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Help UB Medicine reach its goal and enroll the best and brightest students with your gift to the Practice Giving campaign.

To make a gift simply complete and return the giving envelope included in this issue, or make your gift online by visiting www.practicegiving.org.

Learn more about how to include UB in your will and the benefits of deferred gifts for the Medical Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund by contacting the Office of Advancement at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at 716-829-2773 or Toll Free 1-877-826-3246.

Where did you earn your undergraduate degree, and what did you major in?
Niagara University, where I double-majored in biochemistry and biology.

Why did you choose UB Medical School?
UB is the perfect fit for me. The curriculum, facilities and faculty are exceptional. I am interested in integrating research with my medical education, and UB offers a range of opportunities to do this. As a native of Niagara Falls, I am familiar with the area and I love it. I envision myself practicing medicine here. I want to give back to my community and provide the best care possible for the people of the Buffalo-Niagara region.

How did your scholarship make a difference?
Not having to worry about a financial barrier allows me to focus my attention on my studies. The confidence that my scholarship donors have shown in me gives me the extra motivation to do my very best, especially when school gets difficult.

What are your career goals?
Pediatric cardiology. I would love to work at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and to one day open my own practice.

When did you decide to become a physician?
During the summer of my sophomore year of college I completed an internship at a local pediatrics office. I was fascinated and could not imagine doing anything else.

What would you tell others who are interested in UB Medical School?
UB has an amazing curriculum with unique opportunities and early patient contact. Its affiliations with area hospitals allow students to work in a variety of settings. In addition, my brother attends UB medical school and my sister attends UB nursing school. We all agree that UB is the right place.

Volunteer project: Help UB Medicine reach its goal and enroll the best and brightest students with your gift to the Practice Giving campaign.